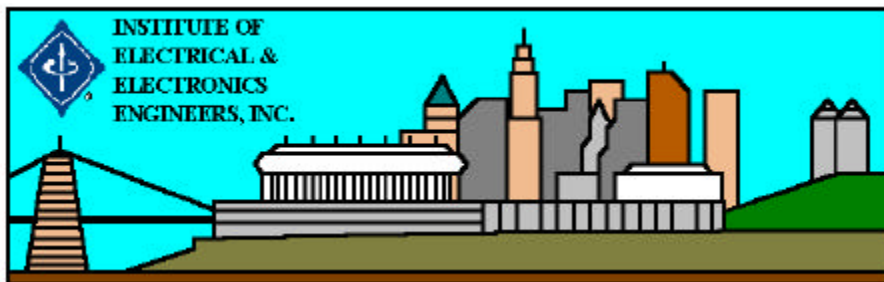


IEEE CINCINNATI
SECTION
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2002



SEPTEMBER MEETING
TOUR OF THE ADVANCED REGIONAL TRAFFIC
INTERACTIVE MANAGEMENT & INFORMATION
SYSTEM (ARTIMIS)

DATE: Thursday, September 26, 2002

PLACE : ARTIMIS Operations Control Center (see below for directions)

TIME : 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Program

NOTE: **THIS IS NOT A DINNER MEETING!!**

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION: This month's meeting of the Cincinnati Section will have a presentation on and tour of the Advanced Regional Traffic Interactive Management & Information System, otherwise known as ARTIMIS (www.artimis.org). ARTIMIS provides incident, congestion, and freeway management for the Cincinnati-N. Kentucky Region. The project is funded by the Ohio Dept. of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) to improve traffic conditions and safety along 88 miles of the region's highways.

As our nation's freeways become more congested, transportation officials are looking at new technologies that can help ease the burden on highways and lessen the frustrations of motorists. Emerging from this search are new methods of traffic technology, collectively known as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). ARTIMIS is the first major ITS effort in Ohio and the second in Kentucky.

The presentation will be made by Mr. Tim Schoch followed by a tour.

Please call the Cincinnati Section Voice Mailbox at 513-629-9380, by **Noon, Tuesday, September 24, 2002** if you plan to attend. Please leave your **Name, IEEE Member Number**, and **a daytime telephone number**.

DIRECTIONS:

The ARTIMIS Operations Control Center is located at 508 W. 3rd St. in downtown Cincinnati and is physically between the north bound lanes and the southbound lanes of I-75. Their driveway is under the north end of the Brent-Spence bridge.

From I-75 either northbound or southbound: 5th Street Exit to right on Central Avenue. Turn right on 3rd St. to drive.

From I-71 southbound: 3rd Street exit- exit number 25- on the left towards DOWNTOWN/RIVERFRONT. West on 3rd Street to Drive.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Tom Grau, Section Chair

Welcome back to IEEE, Cincinnati Section, after this grand and glorious, hot Summer. The Executive Committee is putting together our Fall and Winter program and they promise to be outstanding. Keep tuned in! In addition, the nominating committee is hard at work selecting a slate of candidates for our upcoming election. This will be announced later in the Newsletter.

Our Mission:

To serve the membership of this Section and to support the Societies that our members belong to.

Our Vision:

To enrich our member skills through program presentations of current technologies and issues.

NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals are IEEE members who are new to our Section:

Rachid Abdallah	Umair A. Khan	John M. Reed
Duane E. Alderman	Jim D. Kohl	Scott Richards
Gregory B. Ash	Eric Landwehr	Frank E. Riley
Lee Benhart	John M. Lauck	Melissa R. Ruddick
Amitava Bhaduri	Bill Law	Hazem Said
Jerry L. Black	Todd T. Legette	Anish Saran
Todd A. Bradshaw	Brad Lewis	Fred A. Shivadecker
Ryan Calvert	Wei-Yand Lin	Steven Shue
Jeremy M. Carrier	Steven M. Lotito	Pradeep Srinivasan
John Casey	Jeff Lowrance	Jun Yin
Yunli Chen	Amanda Lucas	Rishi Toshniwal
Robert J. Culley	Cherie Shroyer Matchan	Subramaniam Venkatachalam
Jose C. Danino	Venkataraman Muthiah Nakaraja	William M. Voss
Britt A. Davis	Marie S. Nemier	Yongqiang Wang
Nikolaus Dilger	Walter G. Nolte	John J. Westman
Kenneth Dunn	Brian D. O'Connell	Kris Wicklund
Mark J. Everett	Marcia Oganowski	Keonda H. Williams
Lei He	Scott B. Orlove	Timothy W. Wilshire
John F. Huber	Ajit K. Pandey	Andrew D. Wolff
Gary R. Hughes	Patrick R. Paulson	Ned Xoubi
Richard E. Hunter Jr.	Zhigang Peng	Roshdy S. Youssif
Dan N. Huynh	Kyle P. Pontzloff	Moxie J. Zhang
Steven James	Annu B. Prabhakar	Qi Zhang
Sarath C. Kasarla	Adam C. Ransick	

We wish to extend our welcome to all of our Section's new members!!!

Robert Ho Marriott and Radio Hazards

Seventy five years ago this month, the PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS (IRE) published a paper by Robert H. Marriott entitled "Engineering Precautions in Radio Installations." Employed at the time as a radio expert by the U.S. Navy, Marriott had played a key role in the formation of the IRE and had served as its first president. In addition to his wide-ranging professional activities, he exhibited a keen interest in radio history and was a frequent contributor to the PROCEEDINGS. During 1917, the Editor, Alfred N. Goldsmith, wrote that it was "largely through the loyal and continued efforts of Mr. Marriott that the originally very restricted membership of the Institute now runs into the thousands."

In his February 1917 paper, Marriott made an astute observation which is still relevant in our age of concern for technology assessment and cost-benefit analysis. He wrote that "probably all devices used to produce some desirable result may, under certain conditions, produce or contribute to the production of undesirable results, or damage." In the remainder of his paper, he discussed various risks and undesirable effects encountered in the construction and operation of radio apparatus and how these might be avoided or reduced. Among the hazards were accidental contact with high voltages, short circuits caused by lightning or by antennas contacting power lines, and harmful effects of radio currents induced in telephone lines, power lines, or ungrounded conductors. Based on his personal experience with radio installations on ships, he mentioned that radio signals might ignite inflammable materials or trigger explosions on ships unless careful grounding procedures were employed.

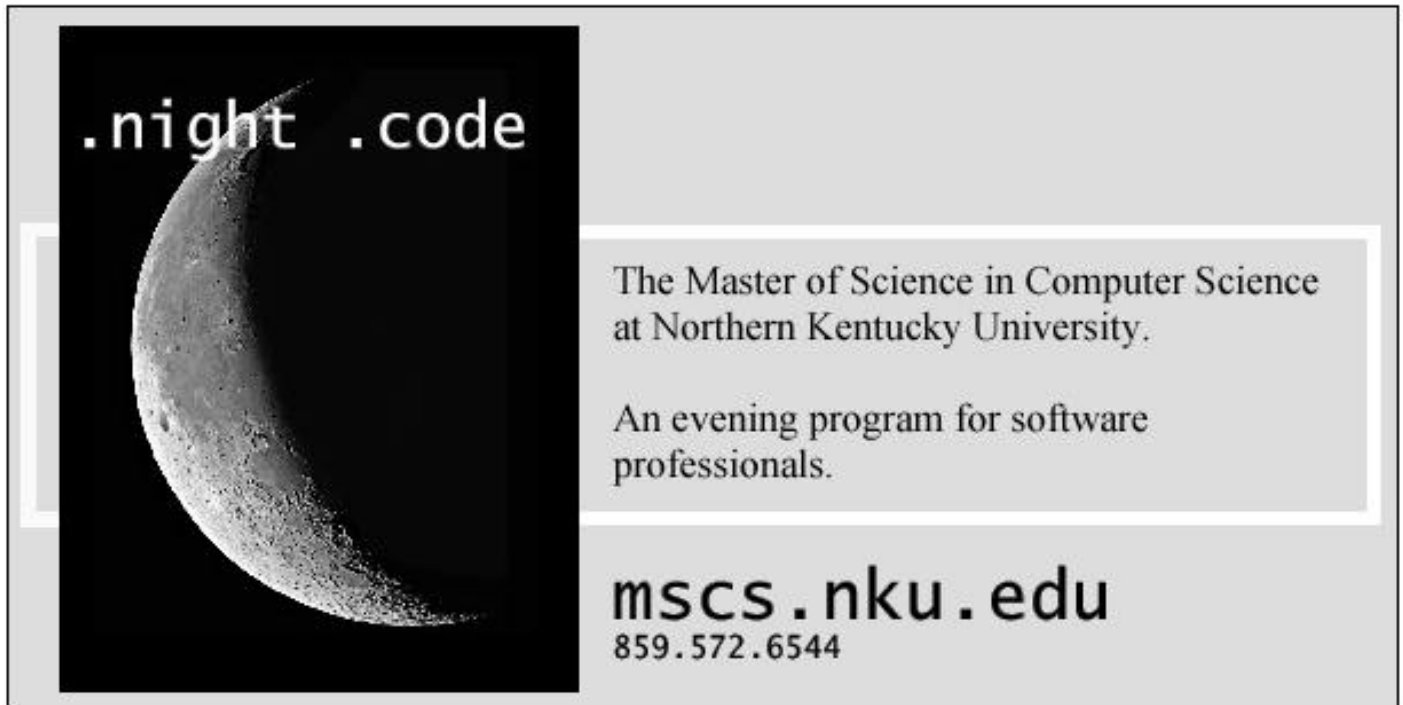
Marriott's investigations of radio interference included natural and man-made static. In a PROCEEDINGS paper published in October 1924, he reported the "discovery of a place where no static could be heard." He stated that he and his colleagues had located a site in southeastern Alaska, sixteen miles from Ketchikan, where no static was heard for a period of six days in August 1921. He suggested that the site had been well shielded by the rugged topography in the vicinity. In the paper he discussed natural static which seemed to originate near mountain peaks and man-made static such as that produced by smoke precipitators at smelting furnaces.

In the role of radio historian, Marriott authored two review papers in the PROCEEDINGS. The June 1917 issue included his paper on the development of radio communication in the U.S. He provided information on when various types of radio transmitters had been first introduced and the impact of design changes in competing spark, arc, and alternator systems. He discussed long range trends in antenna size, transmitter power, and the maximum range of service. He documented the growth in the number of operating commercial and government stations, including those on ships. More than a decade later, he contributed a paper to the August 1929 PROCEEDINGS on the history and long-range trends in the field of radio broadcasting. He provided quantitative data along with interpretation of the growth in the number and transmitter power of broadcast stations. He also discussed the emergence of networks since 1923.

Marriott was born in 1879 in Richwood, Ohio, and began experimenting with radio in 1897 while an undergraduate at Ohio State University, from which he graduated with a degree in physics in 1901. He worked for various radio companies from 1901 until 1912, at which time he became a radio inspector for the U.S. Department of Commerce. He was the prime mover in starting a society of radio engineers known as the Wireless Institute in 1909 and served as its president until 1912. It was through his efforts, along with those of Alfred N. Goldsmith and John V. L. Hogan, that the Wireless Institute merged with the Society of Wireless Telegraph Engineers in 1912 to form the IRE. From 1915 to 1925, he was employed as an expert radio aide to

the Navy. He established the Seattle section of the IRE while located at the Naval yard at Bremerton in Washington state. He was a consulting engineer of the Federal Radio Commission from 1925 to 1929 and then had a private consulting practice until his retirement in 1943. He died in Brooklyn, New York, in October 1951.

*James E. Brittain
School of History, Technology, and Society
Georgia Institute of Technology*



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IEEE NEWS

IEEE Virtual Museum Unveils New Edison Exhibit

The IEEE History Center has added "Thomas Edison: A Lifetime of Invention" to its exhibits on the IEEE Virtual Museum Web site. "Thomas Edison" explores both the highlights and missteps of Edison's career. It also reexamines his most famous innovations while shedding light on his lesser-known achievements. The exhibit uses interactive and other techniques to show how Edison's technologies actually work. For more information, visit the IEEE Virtual Museum at <http://www.ieee.org/museum> or contact Kim Breitfelder, History Center, at k.breitfelder@ieee.org.

The IEEE Virtual Museum has been selected for inclusion in the National Science Digital Library Report for Math, Engineering, and Technology (July 5, 2002), by the Internet Scout Project. The Project reaches in excess of 100,000 people weekly. To see the listing, access <http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/nsdl-reports/met/2002/met-020705.html>.

Award-Winning IEEE-USA Magazine Has New Look & Broader Content

WASHINGTON (May 2, 2002) - IEEE-USA Today's Engineer now includes content previously published in IEEE-USA Policy Perspectives to form a one-stop career and public-policy resource for engineers. The award-winning monthly Web-based magazine (Webzine) can be found at <http://www.todaysengineer.org>.

Today's Engineer features articles and commentary on career enhancement, legislative activities, the technology workplace and the engineering community. This month, "Job Search Strategies - Planning for Results" tells you how careful planning and concentration can help you land your dream job. "Intelligence: Balancing the Techniques and the Costs" looks at what the future holds for intelligence-gathering agencies and what role technology will play.

Today's Engineer writers include acclaimed engineering journalists Donald Christiansen and Terry Costlow. Christiansen is a former editor and publisher of IEEE Spectrum magazine and is currently an independent publishing consultant on Long Island. Costlow, of Arlington Heights, Ill., has written about the electronics industry for more than 20 years, including a stint as EE Times People editor. IEEE practicing engineers also contribute editorial content.

Begun as a print publication in 1998, Today's Engineer evolved into a Webzine in January of 2001. The magazine has won numerous literary honors, including a Gold Circle Award from the American Society of Association Executives in January.

James J. Jefferson wins \$10,000 IEEE Presidents' Scholarship

On May 16, 18-year-old James J. Jefferson from Winona, Minnesota USA won the IEEE Presidents' Scholarship presented at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held this year in Louisville, KY. For his winning project, "Automatic packet reporting system (APRS): building a large-scale geospatial database," he collected and cataloged the entire APRS Internet stream into a relational database. The techniques he designed and built can be used for applications such as rerouting emergency or hazardous materials vehicles due to traffic problems, improving highway design, or reducing the cost of deploying cellular telephone infrastructure.

Mr. Jefferson bounded onto the stage to receive the \$10,000 college scholarship from IEEE Foundation President, Emerson W. Pugh. The IEEE Foundation funds the Scholarship, which is the largest single award given by an organization in the Special Awards Category.

"Observing the excitement and enthusiasm of hundreds of young people at the Intel ISEF Special Awards Ceremony was a rewarding experience for me," said Dr. Pugh. "I was especially pleased that the IEEE Foundation had an opportunity to help support the college education of James Jefferson. He is a fine young man with a truly innovative project and, I believe, a great future."

"It was easy to speak to judges and others about this project, because it's based on my Ham Radio experience. I've been a Ham Radio operator since about 1995, and I have this device in my truck that reports data as I drive around. I thought that something useful could come from all this data, if it could be collected and analyzed," said Mr. Jefferson. "In the future, the GPS systems in cars and now even on cell phones could serve the same function."

A team of judges from the IEEE Lexington and Louisville Sections, led by co-leaders Rachel Wilson and Steve Bryant, sorted through the more than 1200 projects entered in the Intel ISEF from 39 countries to find those that best "demonstrated an understanding of electrical engineering, information technology, or other IEEE fields of interest."

For the purposes of the project, he concentrated on the Los Angeles, CA, freeway system. The data is reported in a variety of ways, which means that Mr. Jefferson had to write a program that translated the data into a common format. He developed the software to analyze the position data, and he wrote another program to search digital maps for the distance to the nearest road, in order to offer options to people stuck in traffic. He

has written approximately 10,000 lines of computer source code. More than 600,000 data points are collected a day.

Working completely on his own, Mr. Jefferson did his original research without benefit of mentor or funding support. A friend helped him locate space for a series of computers he linked together called a Beowulf cluster to work the data. The rest of the work he does in about three quarters of his home basement space.

He enjoys hiking and biking, and, in June, will employ his system so that spectators can track the progress of entrants in a Winona bicycle race.

In the fall, he will attend Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, and major in Computer Sciences. He plans to continue with his project, investigating the use of neural networks to detect road anomalies such as traffic jams. Mr. Jefferson also received prizes from IEEE Computer Society, Intel Foundation, and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

IEEE-USA Patent Rights Proposal Adopted by U.S. Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (May 29, 2002) - On May 28, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled in the Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., LTD. case to restore patent holders' ability to protect their amended patents from "equivalent" products. The justices' decision substantially incorporates the proposed "forseeable bar" standard outlined in an amicus curiae brief submitted by IEEE-USA and argued by the Court in January. As reported by Bloomberg News, this "ruling may prove to be the most significant Supreme Court patent decision in two decades, affecting as many as 90 percent of the 1.2 million patents now in force." For more, visit: <http://www.ieeeusa.org/releases/2002/052802pr.html>

2002 IEEE-USA Precollege Education 'Best Competition'

The IEEE-USA Precollege Education Committee (PEC) has launched its sixth annual competition to identify outstanding precollege education activities conducted in U.S. IEEE Sections (Regions 1-6). The 2002 PEC Best Competition identifies and recognizes volunteer efforts to enhance the teaching of K-12 math, science, and technology and gives these efforts visibility so that other IEEE sections can emulate them. Three projects will be selected for recognition, based upon three criteria: transferability, innovation and effectiveness. For more information and to enter your Section's precollege activity, visit: <http://www.ieeeusa.org/committees/PEC/2002comp.html>

IEEE-USA Salary Survey Sale

The 2001-02 edition of the IEEE-USA Salary & Fringe Benefit Survey is now available to U.S. IEEE members for just \$49.95, a reduction of \$25 off the original member price.

The nation's pre-eminent salary survey for technical professionals contains 64 pages of charts and explanatory text, providing the latest statistics to help users consider prospective jobs and negotiate salaries and benefits. Income data are included in areas such as age, gender, experience, industry, technical experience and geographical location cross tabulations.

Conducted online for the first time, the survey resulted in a near doubling of respondents to more than 9,500. As the biggest and most accurate measure of member compensation ever conducted by IEEE-USA, the report provides many details not reported in the past. To order, call (800) 678-IEEE (4333) and ask for product number UH-2990, or visit: <http://www.ieeeusa.org/catalog/01salary.html>.

Voices of Innovation: A Radio Program on the Wonders of Engineering

Production for the new radio program VOICES OF INNOVATION is under way, and more than a dozen story ideas have come from electrical engineers. If you have an idea that could help improve the public's understanding and awareness of engineering, your story could join this exciting new program. Developed by the American Association of Engineering Societies, of which the IEEE is a founding member, VOICES will be a daily series of two-minute public radio spots featuring engineers talking about their innovations, careers and work. The series is slated to begin in September. For more information on this exciting new concept and to submit your story idea, go to <http://www.voicesofinnovation.org>. You may also contact David Gately, AAES director, communications and public awareness, at (202) 296-2297 or dgately@aaes.org.

IEEE-USA "Today's Engineer" Adds New 'Policy Insights' Column

IEEE-USA's monthly webzine "IEEE-USA TODAY'S ENGINEER" has bolstered its lineup with a new column from IEEE-USA Senior Legislative Representative for Career Policy Activities Vin O'Neill. O'Neill's "Policy Insights" will delve deeper into legislative issues that affect the lives of U.S. IEEE members -- and shed light on what IEEE-USA is doing about them. The first installment takes a look at the Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry. Read more at: <http://www.todaysengineer.org/May02/policyinsight.htm>

IEEE-USA Adopts 11 New Policy Position Statements

At its meeting on June 20 in Toronto, Canada, the IEEE-USA Board of Directors adopted 11 new IEEE-USA Policy Position Statements on numerous issues.

For a complete listing of IEEE-USA Policy Position Statements, visit: <http://www.ieeeusa.org/forum/POSITIONS/index.html>

IEEE-USA Broadband Deployment Workshop Draws International Attention

A June 17-18 workshop at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., explored ways of including Gigabit Ethernet over Fiber (GEF), along with other broadband technologies, in the coming national policy debate. Bill St. Arnaud, of Canada's CANARIE Inc., delivered the keynote address on the evolution of GEF in Canada. The event, sponsored by IEEE-USA's Committee on Communications and Information Policy (CCIP) and the Cornell University Johnson Graduate School of Management, drew conferees from all over North America and media from as far as Paris. For more information, visit: <http://www.ieeeusa.org/releases/2002/062402pr.html>

NSF, NIH Offer Universities Cash to Create Bioinformatics Summer School

Hoping to attract students to bioinformatics, the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) said they intend to give universities cash to start summer-education programs to study the discipline. Universities that participate in the NIH-NSF Bioengineering and Bioinformatics Summer Institutes Program can receive up to \$200,000 per year for up to four years. The program, which anticipates raising \$1.5 million for its first year, said it will issue five to eight awards for programs that will begin in the summer of 2003. Complete GenomeWeb article available at:

<http://www.genomeweb.com/articles/view.asp?Article=200241114934>

IEEE members now receive discount on MIT Advanced Study Program Courses

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Advanced Study Program (MIT ASP) has become an IEEE Education Partner. IEEE members can now continue their life long learning with graduate-level, credit courses provided by MIT at a 10% discount. Current ASP courses include Systems Dynamics, a 24-month certificate program, and Economic Concepts for Engineers, a semester-long course.

Offered over the Internet since 1995, the ASP is in its 33rd year of providing courses to off-campus graduates. Taught by MIT faculty, the online delivery takes advantage of the latest in technologies for working engineers to

keep pace with developments in their fields or to enlarge their knowledge base. Admission is based on the applicant's academic and professional background.

Applications, course pre-requisites, and systems requirements are detailed at the MIT-supplied website for IEEE members. You must use your IEEE member number to receive the 10% discount.

Enter through the IEEE Educational Partners, <http://www.ieee.org/EduPartners>, and choose MIT from the university partners. To learn more about the IEEE Education Partners Program contact Sasha Eydlin, IEEE Educational Activities, s.eydlin@ieee.org.

Another Honor for the IEEE Virtual Museum

The IEEE Virtual Museum has been selected for inclusion in the National Science Digital Library Report for Math, Engineering, and Technology (July 5, 2002), by the Internet Scout Project. The Project reaches in excess of 100,000 people weekly. To see the listing, access <http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/nsdl-reports/met/current/>.

The Project has published continually since 1994. It covers only the most useful resources, considering the depth of content, the authority of the source, and how well the information is maintained and presented. A team of professional librarians, educators, and content specialists filter hundreds of announcements looking for the most valuable and authoritative resources available online. Information about the best of what is found is then summarized, organized, and provided to the Internet community in various formats, including email and the Web. The Internet Scout Project is a National Science Foundation- and Mellon- sponsored organization.

Visit the newest exhibit, "Thomas Edison: A Lifetime of Invention," funded by the Charles Edison Fund, at www.ieee-virtual-museum.org. The original development and continued growth of IEEE Virtual Museum has primarily been provided by the IEEE Foundation, the IEEE Life Members Committee, and the Trustees of the IEEE History Center. The full list of sponsor partners can be viewed at <http://www.ieee-virtual-museum.org/credits/index.php>. If you are interested in helping to expand the IEEE Virtual Museum, please contact the IEEE Development Office by telephone at (732) 562-3915 or by email at supportieee@ieee.org.

For further information, contact Kim Breitfelder, The IEEE History Center, k.breitfelder@ieee.org.

IEEE-USA President's Column: Space Policy Doesn't Suit Women

LeEarl Bryant criticizes NASA's decision to suspend development of a small-sized space suit. According to the IEEE-USA president, the new suits would make it easier for some women to perform the complex maneuvers required to work in space and on the space station.

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/newspubs/presidentscolumn/bryantjul02.html>

Record Engineering Unemployment Spurs IEEE-USA Call for Congressional Action

Responding to rising unemployment rates for U.S. engineers and computer scientists, earlier this month IEEE-USA President Bryant sent a letter to all Members of Congress asking them to conduct a field hearing or town hall meeting to gather input from high-tech professionals on employment in their districts this summer. Go to: <http://ieeeusa.org/releases/2002/071202pr.html> for more information.

Attention Consultants: Take 2002 IEEE-USA Consultants Fee Survey

The Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks (AICN) is sponsoring an online survey designed to help electrotechnology and information technology consultants set their future consulting fees. U.S. IEEE members who work as consultants are invited to complete the 17-question survey, which should take no longer than five minutes. Go to http://www.ieeeusa.org/business/consultants/cgi-bin/consultant.cgi?task=display_page/page=2002feesurvey.html

Copyright Protection in Digital Age

With the increased ease of manipulating digital media has come the increased potential for illegal distribution of that media. Is there a solution that will stem piracy while allowing for fair use? <http://www.todaysengineer.org/july02/copyright.htm>

IEEE-USA, Coalition for National Security Research Seek Increase For Defense S&T Program

On 12 June, Dr. Allan C. Schell, a member of IEEE-USA's R&D Policy Committee, provided testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, seeking \$11 billion for the Department of Defense Science and Technology Program for Fiscal Year 2003. <http://ieeeusa.org/releases/2002/061202pr.html>

"What's New at IEEE-USA Eye on Washington" Highlights U.S. Government Legislative, Regulatory Actions

IEEE-USA's biweekly sister e-zine, EYE ON WASHINGTON, highlights important federal legislative and regulatory developments that affect U.S. engineers and their careers. In addition to the e-zine, subscribers receive legislative bulletins and action alerts on IEEE-USA priority issues, including: retirement security, employment benefits, research & development funding, computers and information policy, immigration reform, intellectual property protection, and privacy of health/medical information. <http://www.ieeeusa.org/forum/EYEONWASHINGTON/Default.htm>

IEEE-USA Remains Opposed to UCITA, Despite Amendments

WASHINGTON (August 9, 2002) - IEEE-USA remains opposed to the uniform Computer Information Transaction Act (UCITA) despite amendments to the proposed model state law passed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) in Tucson, Ariz., the week of July 29.

According to IEEE-USA President LeEarl Bryant, the amended UCITA still fails to address several fundamental IEEE-USA concerns:

- UCITA turns a sale of goods into a licensing transaction, which permits software publishers to enforce contract provisions contained in "click through" and "shrink-wrap" licenses that may not be disclosed to consumers prior to purchase. Such provisions may be burdensome or unreasonable, but place the burden on the purchaser to display that they are legally "unconscionable" or "against fundamental public policy." Failure to require a pre-transaction disclosure of terms is one of the main reasons why UCITA received a negative report by the American Bar Association's UCITA Task Force earlier this year.

- UCITA, as amended, now recognizes the right to reverse engineer software for purposes of interoperability, but justification for other reasonable reverse engineering practices (e.g., privacy protection, security or compliance verification, academic research or instruction, reporting or remediation of flaws, etc.) are still not explicitly protected.

- Although the use of "self-help" measures (i.e., a software company's ability to turn off your software remotely if it suspects a license violation) would now be restricted by amendment, software companies are still free to design "back doors" into their software for that purpose and limit company liability if those "back doors" are misused, by themselves or others. With so much critical national infrastructure (e.g., water, electricity, telecommunications, health information systems) dependent on commercial and custom software, this loophole heightens security risks and makes the nation vulnerable to potentially crippling cyber attacks.

"Electrical engineers and computer scientists rely on software to aid in the complex technical analysis and development their jobs requires,"

IEEE-USA's Bryant said. "UCITA could undermine these technical professionals' efforts to ensure the security of critical information systems."

Among the new amendments are provisions that would ensure that state consumer protection laws take precedence over UCITA license provisions, as well as amendments to make unenforceable license terms that seek to restrict the right to criticize information products or to reverse engineer software for purposes of product interoperability, which were championed by IEEE-USA in Virginia in 2000.

Maryland and Virginia adopted UCITA, with amendments, in 2000. "The current NCCUSL amendments are designed to more closely harmonize the model law with the versions adopted in Maryland and Virginia," said Bryant, "in hopes of breathing new life into the law, which stalled in other states during 2001-02 legislative sessions."

UCITA is designed to regulate commercial transactions involving intangible goods such as computer software, online databases and other digital information products. The law was adopted by NCCUSL in 1999 after a joint effort with the American Law Institute to expand the Uniform Commercial Code broke down.

After early efforts to help NCCUSL craft a workable law went unheeded, IEEE-USA formalized its opposition to UCITA in a February 2000 position statement (<http://www.ieeeusa.org/forum/POSITIONS/ucita.html>). Widespread opposition to UCITA has continued to grow since its introduction, and now includes a majority of state Attorneys General, as well as insurance companies, library associations, consumer protection groups, the open source software community, and large industrial software consumers such as Boeing, Georgia Pacific and Phillips Petroleum.

Drexel University joins IEEE Education Partners Program

Drexel University, Philadelphia's technological university, has become the newest IEEE Education Partner. IEEE members can now continue their life long learning with selected graduate-level, credit courses provided online by Drexel at a 10% discount. Current online programs offered to IEEE members through Drexel e-Learning, the university's online subsidiary, include Masters of Science in Information Science/Systems and Management and Certificate Programs. Tom Samph, President of Drexel e-Learning said: "This unique collaboration with IEEE reflects our joint commitment to offering educational opportunities to engineering professionals; providing them the skills and knowledge needed to advance in today's technology-driven environment."

In 2000 Drexel became the first major U.S. university to operate a fully wireless CyberCampus. The e-Learning program draws on the Drexel's 110-year tradition in preparing engineers for successful careers. With 11 colleges and schools, 175 degree programs and approximately 16,000 students, Drexel is one of America's leading private, non-profit academic and research institutions.

Applications, course prerequisites, and systems requirements are detailed at the Drexel-supplied website for IEEE members. You must use your IEEE member number to receive the 10% discount.

Enter through the IEEE Educational Partners, <http://www.ieee.org/EduPartners>, and choose Drexel from the university partners. To learn more about the IEEE Education Partners Program contact Sasha Eydlin, IEEE Educational Activities, s.eydlin@ieee.org.

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